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**1988/03/21**

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### Suggested Talking Points (for Mike Armacost and Win Lord)

-- Our bilateral relationship with China is based on the belief that China can play a positive role in contributing to peace and security in the world. Nowhere is this more important than in the powder keg of the Middle East.

-- We appreciate the assurances China has provided that the IRBM's China has transferred to Saudi Arabia will be equipped only with conventional warheads and that China will never sell nuclear weapons to any country.

-- Armacost only: During our last meeting, I expressed the US's deep concern over the danger to international stability inherent in the proliferation of missile technology and missile delivery systems able to deliver conventional, nuclear or chemical weapons, particularly into the volatile Middle East.

-- Lord only: The US is deeply concerned over the danger to international stability inherent in the proliferation of missile technology and missile delivery systems able to deliver conventional, nuclear or chemical weapons, particularly into the volatile Middle East.

-- The proliferation of intermediate or short-range ballistic missile systems and technology threatens to intensify traditional rivalries and dramatically heighten the security concerns of many countries.

-- I would like to convey this letter from Secretary Shultz to Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian urging an expanded dialogue on this question with a view to minimizing the possibility of misunderstandings that could undermine our common interest in mutually beneficial cooperation between us.

-- Armacost only: Ambassador Lord has been instructed to deliver a copy of this letter to the Foreign Ministry in Beijing.

-- Lord only: Under Secretary Armacost has presented the original letter to your Embassy in Washington.

-- We are prepared to begin a dialogue at your earliest convenience and look forward to hearing your thoughts on this urgent matter.

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